

From: pdmiller@cadence.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 9:20am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Department of Justice,

I would like to offer my opinion on the proposed settlement with Microsoft.

This settlement gives hardware vendors slightly more freedom to bundle non-Microsoft products. It establishes fair pricing for Windows operating systems for OEM's. It requires that a small handful of software, called "Microsoft Middleware Product" be removable.

That's it?

This settlement will provide no relief to competing companies, to consumers, or to businesses who use Microsoft products. It maintains Microsoft's near-monopoly and sends them a strong message that nobody can or will stop them.

I believe in free markets and I think the government should be involved as little as possible. However, this nation has been hurt by the actions of Microsoft. Microsoft has squashed competition and innovation, users have paid inflated prices, consumers have little actual choice in desktop operating systems, and seriously buggy and insecure Microsoft software is now (sadly) the norm. The United States had an amazing lead in computer and software technology which we have essentially thrown away.

In short, this settlement doesn't settle anything. Please reconsider adding some penalties or provisions that will make a positive difference. We, the citizens and consumers of this country, will be worse off rather than better if this settlement is adopted as proposed.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
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